

Department of Health
and Human Services

Maine People Living
Safe, Healthy and Productive Lives

Paul R. LePage, Governor Ricker Hamilton, Acting Commissioner

Department of Health and Human Services
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COMPLIANCE WITH ORDER TO ABATE REMOVAL OF POSTING OF ENVIRONMENTAL LEAD HAZARDS

October 31, 2017

Saad Albeshir
SM & A Properties LLC
PO Box 6752
Portland, Me 04101

CASE ID: 14-006

PHYSICAL LOCATION: 75 FOREST AVE, PORTLAND, ME

Notice of Environmental Lead Hazards Posted: 4/17/2014

Date of Post Abatement Inspection: Interior: 10/26/2017
Exterior: 10/25/2017

Dear Mr. Albeshir:

This letter is to confirm that our office has received documentation of post-abatement clearances that meet our standards for lead-safe housing at the above referenced property. All areas of the dwelling previously identified as containing environmental lead hazards in the Order to Abate were satisfactorily addressed, as required by the Lead Poisoning Control Act. The Environmental Lead Hazard Posting may now be removed from the property.

Now that your property meets lead-safe housing standards, it is important to remember that lead-safe does not always mean lead-free. To prevent future lead hazards, all maintenance and/or renovation to the property should be performed using lead-safe work practices. The enclosed brochure, "Essential Maintenance for a Lead-Safe Home," will help you maintain a lead-safe property.

In addition, there are three laws regarding lead that you should be aware of, because they require the actions listed below:

1. **Section 1018 of the federal Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (known as Lead Disclosure).** This law requires that you provide lead disclosure information to tenants of rental properties built before 1978. Required actions:
 - a. Prior to renting housing built before 1978, you must provide prospective tenants with the brochure "Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home" and have them sign a disclosure form which verifies that they have been informed about the presence of lead in your building and the availability of reports. A copy of the brochure is enclosed. An example of a disclosure form can be found at <http://www2.epa.gov/lead/protect-your-family-lead-your-home-real-estate-disclosure>.
 - b. For this dwelling in particular, you must disclose that lead hazards were previously identified, and maintain a copy of the Investigation Report and Abatement Report in your files. You must allow all tenants and prospective tenants to review the report. In addition, you should retain a copy of this statement of compliance.

2. **14 M.R.S., Chapter 710, Sub-§6030-B.** This Maine law requires that you give tenants 30 days notice prior to performing renovation, repair or remodeling activity in a building built before 1978, excluding emergency repairs. Please visit <http://www.mainelegislature.org/legis/statutes/14/title14ch710.pdf> to review the requirements of this law.

Required actions include the following:

If you undertake any repairs or renovations in your rental building, at least 30 days before the activity starts you must:

- (1) post a sign on the building's entry doors; and
- (2) send notice by certified mail to every unit in the building. See the statute for information about potential waivers to the 30-day requirement.

3. **Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) Rule of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

EPA's rule known as the RRP rule went into effect on April 22, 2010. Required actions include the following:

- a. At this time, you are required to provide a copy of the brochure "Renovate Right" at least 7 days prior to certain repair, remodeling, or painting activities. I have enclosed a copy of the brochure; Anyone performing work that disturbs lead paint (more than 6 square feet on the interior or 20 square feet on the exterior) in your pre-1978 building, including yourself, must be certified by the EPA; and
- b. Any work that disturbs lead paint (more than 6 square feet on the interior or 20 square feet on the exterior) must be done in a lead-safe manner.

I encourage you to visit the EPA website (www.epa.gov/lead) to determine how the Renovation Repair and Painting Rule will affect your properties.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions or need further information, you may contact me in writing or by telephone at 207-287-5668.

Sincerely,



Dana Leeper, Environmental Coordinator
Maine CDC Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Unit
286 Water St., SHS # 11
Augusta, ME 04333-0011
207-287-5668
dana.leeper@maine.gov

cc: Sandy Moody, DEP
Colleen Hennessy, City of Portland
Jim Fahey, City of Portland
General Assistance, City of Portland

Encls. Essential Maintenance for a Lead Safe Home
Protect Your Family from Lead in Your Home
Renovate Right

When you do essential maintenance on lead-based paint, you give your family the gift of a healthy home.

If you need information on lead-safe work practices for renovation and remodeling, or would like a listing of lead inspectors or lead abatement contractors, please call:

DEP Lead Hazard Prevention Program
1-800-452-1942 or (207)287-2651
www.maine.gov/dep/rwm/lead

The US Department of Housing & Urban Development has published a detailed, illustrated how-to guide called:

Lead Paint Safety: A Field Guide for Painting, Home Maintenance, and Renovation Work.

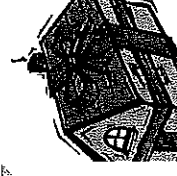
This handbook can be downloaded from the web at www.hud.gov/offices/lead/

You can also call the Lead Hotline at **1-800-424-LEAD** to request this and other lead poisoning prevention

Essential Maintenance For a Lead-Safe Home

- Homes built before 1978 may contain lead-based paint.
- Lead-based paint that is in poor condition or on friction and impact surfaces like doors, windows, and floors can be a lead hazard.
- Building improvement projects such as repainting and remodeling can also create lead hazards.

Give your family the gift of a healthy home



The Problem:

If you have a home that was built before 1978, you want to be sure that your home stays lead-safe by preventing lead hazards from developing. Lead-based paint in poor condition or on friction or impact surfaces can create hazardous lead dust and paint chips. Check surfaces painted with lead-based paint regularly to be sure the paint isn't becoming worn, chipped, flaking or peeling.

...and the Solution

Keep the lead-based paint in your home in good condition, and prevent surfaces that have lead-based paint from rubbing or impact. An "Essential Maintenance Plan" (EMP) is a plan of paint inspection and maintenance that ensures that lead paint remains in good condition and doesn't create a lead hazard.

You can implement your own EMP by making a list of all lead-painted surfaces in your home, inspecting them regularly, and performing "interim controls" if the paint is flaking, peeling, or cracking, or if there is dust on window sills or floors. If the paint or a building component with lead-paint on it is damaged or needs repair, follow the steps in this booklet to prevent lead hazards.

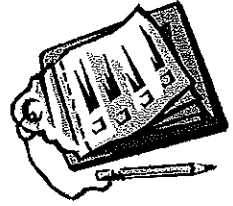
Step 1. Write down the surfaces that you know or suspect have lead-based paint on them.

It's usually easier if you do this by room. For example:

- Living Room
 - west windows
 - baseboards
- Kitchen
 - Baseboards
- Family room
 - painted floor
 - trim around ceiling
- Katie's bedroom
 - closet walls

Step 2. Inspect lead-painted surfaces regularly and use interim controls to prevent lead dust from getting into your home environment.

Interim controls are actions that you take to prevent or eliminate exposure to lead in your home. These are actions such as routine cleaning, lead-based paint repair, repainting non-friction or impact surfaces, repairing friction and impact surfaces, using bottled water, and covering bare soil.

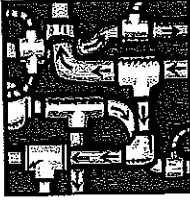


Interim Control Methods for Water with High Lead Levels

Interim control methods for reducing exposure to lead in water include:

- ✓ Using bottled water;
- ✓ Running the water until it gets noticeably colder (at least one minute whenever the faucet has gone unused for greater than 6 hours);
- ✓ Install and maintaining a point-of-use filtration system capable of removing lead.

If you are considering using a filtration system, please contact the Department of Human Services Drinking Water Program at 287-5694 for guidance on getting an appropriate filter.



Interim Control Methods for Bare Soil with High Lead Levels

Children and pets love to play in bare soil. If the soil has high levels of lead in it, children and pets can bring lead dust into the home as well as ingesting lead during play. Bare soil right next to pre-1978 houses often contains high lead levels due to past repainting activities. Interim control methods for bare soil with high lead levels include:

- ✓ Placing doormats outside and inside all entryways into your home;
- ✓ Covering bare soil with a minimum of 6 inches of cover soil, mulch or gravel;
- ✓ Planting grass on bare soil;
- ✓ Restricting access to areas of accessible bare soil, for example, planting dense evergreen shrubs, or putting up fencing.



Doors

1. Remove all rugs, drapes, curtains, etc. near the work area. Move any furniture and other objects away from the work area. Clean these items before returning them at the conclusion of the work.
2. Place plastic sheeting extending five feet in all directions underneath the work area and secure it to the baseboard.
3. If you have a forced air system, turn it off.
4. Check to see if the door is hung properly. Loose hinges can cause the door to rub against the jamb. If a screw can't be tightened, remove it, put a dowel in the screw hole and cut it flush with the hinge. Use a longer screw to refasten the door. If the door is still rubbing, try installing shims under the hinge. If it still rubs, remove the door, mist the door edges with water, and plane the door to eliminate the areas that are rubbing against the jamb. Reinstall the door.
5. After completing this work, lightly mist then roll up the plastic sheeting, and clean all surfaces within five feet of the work area.



- ✓ Remember to take your shoes off whenever stepping off the plastic sheeting.

Stairs

1. Remove all rugs, drapes, curtains, etc. near the work area. Move any furniture and other objects away from the work area. Clean these items before returning them at the conclusion of the work.
2. Place plastic sheeting extending five feet in all directions underneath the work area and secure it to the baseboard.
3. Install a hard, cleanable covering, such as a rubber tread guard. Wet scrape or wet sand and repaint any railings that may have deteriorated lead-based paint.
4. After making the repair, clean all surfaces within five feet of the work area.

Safe Work Principles

When doing interim controls, there are some basic safe work principles you should always follow when working around lead-based paint.

- ✓ Create as little dust as possible. Avoid using power tools, particularly sanders.
- ✓ If the work releases any dust, keep it damp. Mist work surfaces as you hand sand or scrape.
- ✓ If it's not possible to keep the work surfaces damp (e.g. removing window components before scraping), use a ½-face respirator with filter cartridges that will filter out lead (these filters are magenta).
- ✓ Keep the dust contained. Keep doors and windows closed. Work over a plastic drop cloth. Always remember to remove your work shoes before stepping off the drop cloth!
- ✓ Clean up each room or area as you work.
- ✓ Only use a vacuum if it has a HEPA filter. Regular vacuum cleaners spread fine lead dust particles throughout a room.
- ✓ Keep all children and pets out of the work area.
- ✓ Never smoke or drink while working.
- ✓ Wash work clothes separately from other laundry.
- ✓ Clean yourself thoroughly before hugging your family!

What Not to Do....

Many traditional methods of preparing a painted surface for repainting, refinishing, or restaining can poison both children and adults if the paint is lead-based.

Never use any of these methods to remove lead-based paint:

- ✗ Open flame burning or torching.
- ✗ Machine sanding or grinding without a HEPA vacuum exhaust tool.
- ✗ Uncontained hydroblasting or high-pressure washing.
- ✗ Abrasive blasting or sandblasting without a HEPA vacuum exhaust tool.
- ✗ Use of dry scrapers, belt-sanders, propane torches, or heat guns that operate above 1100°F.

Routine Cleaning as an Interim Control

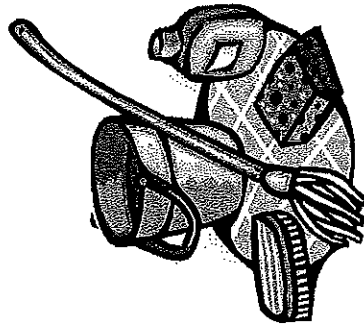
Lead dust is very fine and may not be visible to the eye. Where you can see paint chips, there's probably lead dust. Even if you do not see paint chips, there still may be lead dust present.

Lead dust may be present on surfaces and in cracks throughout your home. Windows, worn floors, carpets, and upholstered furnishings seem to collect most of the lead dust.

Lead dust tends to stick to surfaces. It cannot easily be brushed off - it must be rubbed off. You must change rags, mop heads and rinse water often or the dust will just be smeared around rather than removed. Here are some recommended guidelines on when and how to clean, and what not to do when cleaning your home.

Schedule for Cleaning

Rooms that contain leaded components (e.g. floors, windows, doors, walls, baseboards) need to be cleaned at least once every two weeks in order to reduce or prevent exposure to dust that potentially may contain lead.



Cleaning Carpets and Rugs

Do use

- ✓ "Wet scrubbing" methods to remove stains
- ✓ Steam cleaning
- ✓ Standard vacuum cleaners if no visible dust or debris from chipping or flaking paint is present

Don't use

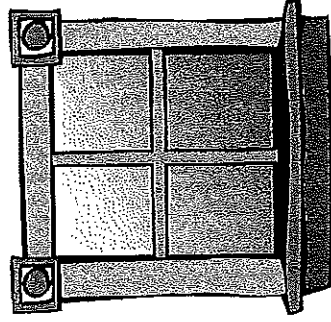
- ✗ "Shaking" or "beating" of carpets and rugs
- ✗ Dry sweeping of surface dust and debris

How to Repair a Friction or Impact Surface

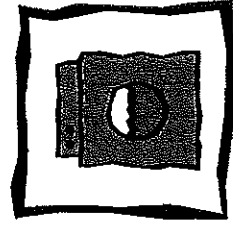
Repairing windows, doors, and stairs will help to reduce lead hazards from lead-painted friction and impact surfaces in your home. Follow these steps to minimize creating lead dust from your normal use of windows, doors, and stairs.

Windows

1. Remove all rugs, drapes, curtains, etc. near the work area. Move any furniture and other objects away from the work area. Clean these items before returning them at the conclusion of the work.
2. Place plastic sheeting extending five feet in all directions underneath the work area and secure it to the baseboard.
3. If you have a forced air system, turn it off.



4. Remove the window stop and window sash. Wet scrape the deteriorated paint left on the sash and jamb. Replace the stop with a new stop or wet scrape off the lead-based paint.
5. Clean out the window well. Cut a piece of aluminum flashing, also referred to as "coil stock" and caulk in place. It is advisable to drill two holes in the storm window, flush with the sill, to let water drain. Reinstall the window.
6. After completing this work, lightly mist then roll up the plastic sheeting, and clean all surfaces within five feet of the work area.



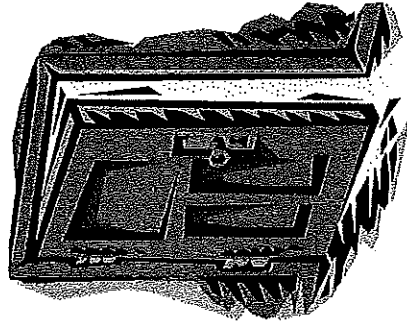
- ✓ Remember to thoroughly clean your shoes or boots when you're done working.
- ✓ Wash your work clothes separately so you don't get lead dust on your children's clothes.

Repairing Friction and Impact Surfaces as an Interim Control

Friction surfaces are surfaces that are subject to abrasion, that is, rubbing or friction actions that cause wear on a surface. Common examples of friction surfaces are:

- ⇒ the parts of a window that rub when opened and closed,
- ⇒ tight-fitting doors, cabinet doors and drawers,
- ⇒ stairs, and
- ⇒ floors.

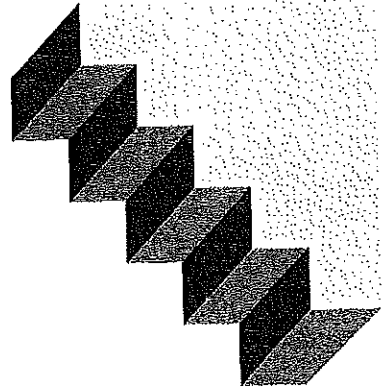
When covered with lead-based paint, friction surfaces can create invisible lead dust. You can reduce the amount of lead dust created by friction surfaces by fixing the areas that rub together, e.g., planing door surfaces so they don't rub together, inserting channel guides into window frames, and carpeting stairs and floors.



Impact surfaces are surfaces that stick out and tend to be bumped or banged. The most common impact surfaces are:

- ⇒ doors and doorjamb,
- ⇒ door trim,
- ⇒ doorstops,
- ⇒ baseboards,
- ⇒ chair rails, and
- ⇒ stair risers.

Repeated impacts can create lead dust and cause small chips of paint to fall to the floor. You can reduce impact surface problems by placing barriers in front of the surfaces.



Cleaning Floors

Do use

- ✓ Damp or wet mopping
- ✓ Standard "sponge" or "string" type mops and an all purpose cleaner
- ✓ Standard vacuum cleaners if no visible dust or debris from chipping or flaking paint is present

Don't use

- ✗ Mops with "scrubber" strip attached
- ✗ Powered buffing or polishing machines
- ✗ Vacuums with "beater bars"
- ✗ Dry sweeping of surface dust and debris

Cleaning Walls

Do use

- ✓ Soft cloths to wet wipe walls
- ✓ All purpose cleaner

Don't use

- ✗ Steel wool, scouring pads, and abrasive cleaners
- ✗ Solvent cleaners

Other Painted Surfaces (e.g. doors, windows baseboards)

Do use

- ✓ Soft cloths

Don't use

- ✗ Scouring pads, and abrasive cleaners
- ✗ Solvent cleaners
- ✗ Excessive rubbing to remove spots

Dusting

Do use

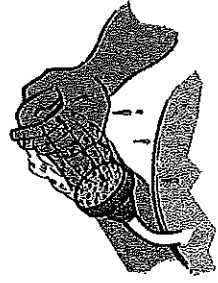
- ✓ Disposable, non-abrasive dusting cloths or "dusters"

Lead-Based Paint Repair as an Interim Control

If you see small areas of flaking, chipping, or peeling paint when doing your regular EMP checks of lead-painted surfaces in your home, follow these steps to perform a lead-safe repair.

1. Remove all rugs, drapes, curtains, etc. near the work area. Move any furniture and other objects away from the work area. Clean these items before returning them at the conclusion of the work.
2. Place plastic sheeting extending five feet in all directions underneath the work area and secure it to the baseboard.
3. If you have a forced air system, turn it off.
4. Close the door to the room and keep the windows closed.
5. Lightly mist the area and gently scrape off the loose paint.
6. Lightly sand the area with a wet abrasive pad before repainting.
7. After completing the repainting, lightly mist then roll up the plastic sheeting, and clean all surfaces within five feet of the work area.

- ✓ Always wash your hands and face before eating or smoking.
- ✓ Don't let children or pets in the work areas until you've finished cleaning.

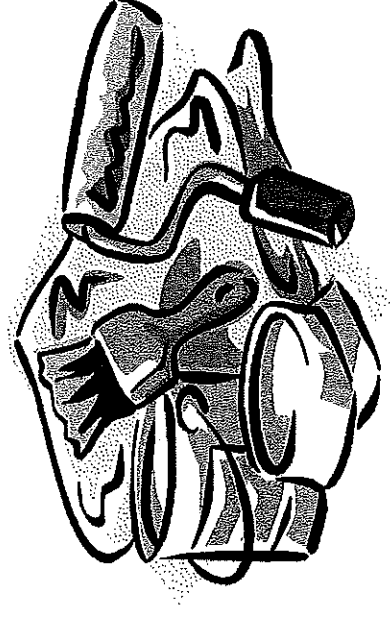


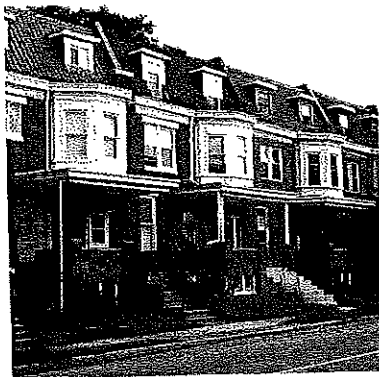
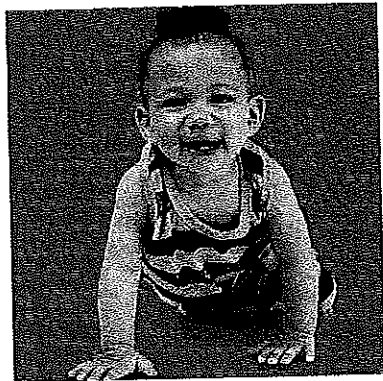
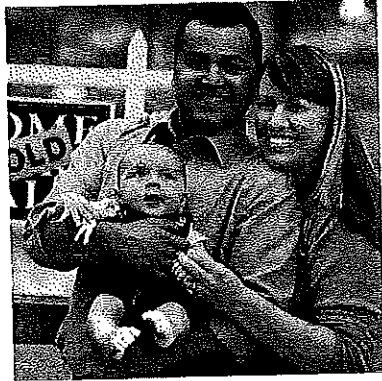
Repainting Lead-Painted Surfaces as an Interim Control

You can use repainting as an interim control on lead-painted surfaces that have begun to deteriorate due to the age of the paint or to problems such as structural defects or water damage. It is a good choice for walls and ceilings because they are not constantly bumped or rubbed. Repainting a surface with a lead-free paint will help to lessen lead hazards by reducing the amount of lead dust and paint chips that get into the environment.

To repaint a surface that has lead-based paint on it, take the following steps:

1. Make sure to fix or eliminate whatever condition is causing the paint to deteriorate. This can include repairing water leaks, defective plaster, and damaged structural parts.
2. Use a high-quality paint recommended by a manufacturer for the type of surface you are painting.
3. Read and follow the manufacturer's instructions for applying





Protect Your Family From Lead in Your Home



United States
Environmental
Protection Agency



United States
Consumer Product
Safety Commission



United States
Department of Housing
and Urban Development

September 2013

Are You Planning to Buy or Rent a Home Built Before 1978?

Did you know that many homes built before 1978 have **lead-based paint**? Lead from paint, chips, and dust can pose serious health hazards.

Read this entire brochure to learn:

- How lead gets into the body
- About health effects of lead
- What you can do to protect your family
- Where to go for more information

Before renting or buying a pre-1978 home or apartment, federal law requires:

- Sellers must disclose known information on lead-based paint or lead-based paint hazards before selling a house.
- Real estate sales contracts must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint. Buyers have up to 10 days to check for lead.
- Landlords must disclose known information on lead-based paint and lead-based paint hazards before leases take effect. Leases must include a specific warning statement about lead-based paint.

If undertaking renovations, repairs, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or apartment:

- Read EPA's pamphlet, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*, to learn about the lead-safe work practices that contractors are required to follow when working in your home (see page 12).



Simple Steps to Protect Your Family from Lead Hazards

If you think your home has lead-based paint:

- Don't try to remove lead-based paint yourself.
- Always keep painted surfaces in good condition to minimize deterioration.
- Get your home checked for lead hazards. Find a certified inspector or risk assessor at epa.gov/lead.
- Talk to your landlord about fixing surfaces with peeling or chipping paint.
- Regularly clean floors, window sills, and other surfaces.
- Take precautions to avoid exposure to lead dust when remodeling.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe certified renovation firms.
- Before buying, renting, or renovating your home, have it checked for lead-based paint.
- Consult your health care provider about testing your children for lead. Your pediatrician can check for lead with a simple blood test.
- Wash children's hands, bottles, pacifiers, and toys often.
- Make sure children avoid fatty (or high fat) foods and eat nutritious meals high in iron and calcium.
- Remove shoes or wipe soil off shoes before entering your house.

Lead Gets into the Body in Many Ways

Adults and children can get lead into their bodies if they:

- Breathe in lead dust (especially during activities such as renovations, repairs, or painting that disturb painted surfaces).
- Swallow lead dust that has settled on food, food preparation surfaces, and other places.
- Eat paint chips or soil that contains lead.

Lead is especially dangerous to children under the age of 6.

- At this age, children's brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.
- Children's growing bodies absorb more lead.
- Babies and young children often put their hands and other objects in their mouths. These objects can have lead dust on them.



Women of childbearing age should know that lead is dangerous to a developing fetus.

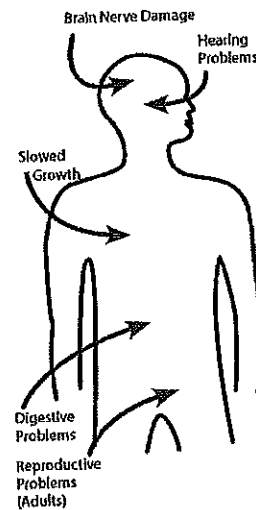
- Women with a high lead level in their system before or during pregnancy risk exposing the fetus to lead through the placenta during fetal development.

Health Effects of Lead

Lead affects the body in many ways. It is important to know that even exposure to low levels of lead can severely harm children.

In children, exposure to lead can cause:

- Nervous system and kidney damage
- Learning disabilities, attention deficit disorder, and decreased intelligence
- Speech, language, and behavior problems
- Poor muscle coordination
- Decreased muscle and bone growth
- Hearing damage



While low-lead exposure is most common, exposure to high amounts of lead can have devastating effects on children, including seizures, unconsciousness, and, in some cases, death.

Although children are especially susceptible to lead exposure, lead can be dangerous for adults, too.

In adults, exposure to lead can cause:

- Harm to a developing fetus
- Increased chance of high blood pressure during pregnancy
- Fertility problems (in men and women)
- High blood pressure
- Digestive problems
- Nerve disorders
- Memory and concentration problems
- Muscle and joint pain

Check Your Family for Lead

Get your children and home tested if you think your home has lead.

Children's blood lead levels tend to increase rapidly from 6 to 12 months of age, and tend to peak at 18 to 24 months of age.

Consult your doctor for advice on testing your children. A simple blood test can detect lead. Blood lead tests are usually recommended for:

- Children at ages 1 and 2
- Children or other family members who have been exposed to high levels of lead
- Children who should be tested under your state or local health screening plan

Your doctor can explain what the test results mean and if more testing will be needed.

Where Lead-Based Paint Is Found

In general, the older your home or childcare facility, the more likely it has lead-based paint.¹

Many homes, including private, federally-assisted, federally-owned housing, and childcare facilities built before 1978 have lead-based paint. In 1978, the federal government banned consumer uses of lead-containing paint.²

Learn how to determine if paint is lead-based paint on page 7.

Lead can be found:

- In homes and childcare facilities in the city, country, or suburbs,
- In private and public single-family homes and apartments,
- On surfaces inside and outside of the house, and
- In soil around a home. (Soil can pick up lead from exterior paint or other sources, such as past use of leaded gas in cars.)

Learn more about where lead is found at epa.gov/lead.

¹ "Lead-based paint" is currently defined by the federal government as paint with lead levels greater than or equal to 1.0 milligram per square centimeter (mg/cm), or more than 0.5% by weight.

² "Lead-containing paint" is currently defined by the federal government as lead in new dried paint in excess of 90 parts per million (ppm) by weight.

Identifying Lead-Based Paint and Lead-Based Paint Hazards

Deteriorating lead-based paint (peeling, chipping, chalking, cracking, or damaged paint) is a hazard and needs immediate attention. **Lead-based paint** may also be a hazard when found on surfaces that children can chew or that get a lot of wear and tear, such as:

- On windows and window sills
- Doors and door frames
- Stairs, railings, banisters, and porches

Lead-based paint is usually not a hazard if it is in good condition and if it is not on an impact or friction surface like a window.

Lead dust can form when lead-based paint is scraped, sanded, or heated. Lead dust also forms when painted surfaces containing lead bump or rub together. Lead paint chips and dust can get on surfaces and objects that people touch. Settled lead dust can reenter the air when the home is vacuumed or swept, or when people walk through it. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in dust as hazardous:

- 40 micrograms per square foot ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$) and higher for floors, including carpeted floors
- 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ and higher for interior window sills

Lead in soil can be a hazard when children play in bare soil or when people bring soil into the house on their shoes. EPA currently defines the following levels of lead in soil as hazardous:

- 400 parts per million (ppm) and higher in play areas of bare soil
- 1,200 ppm (average) and higher in bare soil in the remainder of the yard

Remember, lead from paint chips—which you can see—and lead dust—which you may not be able to see—both can be hazards.

The only way to find out if paint, dust, or soil lead hazards exist is to test for them. The next page describes how to do this.

Checking Your Home for Lead

You can get your home tested for lead in several different ways:

- A lead-based paint **inspection** tells you if your home has lead-based paint and where it is located. It won't tell you whether your home currently has lead hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a lead-based paint inspector, will conduct a paint inspection using methods, such as:
 - Portable x-ray fluorescence (XRF) machine
 - Lab tests of paint samples
- A **risk assessment** tells you if your home currently has any lead hazards from lead in paint, dust, or soil. It also tells you what actions to take to address any hazards. A trained and certified testing professional, called a risk assessor, will:
 - Sample paint that is deteriorated on doors, windows, floors, stairs, and walls
 - Sample dust near painted surfaces and sample bare soil in the yard
 - Get lab tests of paint, dust, and soil samples
- A combination inspection and risk assessment tells you if your home has any lead-based paint and if your home has any lead hazards, and where both are located.



Be sure to read the report provided to you after your inspection or risk assessment is completed, and ask questions about anything you do not understand.

Checking Your Home for Lead, continued

In preparing for renovation, repair, or painting work in a pre-1978 home, Lead-Safe Certified renovators (see page 12) may:

- Take paint chip samples to determine if lead-based paint is present in the area planned for renovation and send them to an EPA-recognized lead lab for analysis. In housing receiving federal assistance, the person collecting these samples must be a certified lead-based paint inspector or risk assessor
- Use EPA-recognized tests kits to determine if lead-based paint is absent (but not in housing receiving federal assistance)
- Presume that lead-based paint is present and use lead-safe work practices

There are state and federal programs in place to ensure that testing is done safely, reliably, and effectively. Contact your state or local agency for more information, visit epa.gov/lead, or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)** for a list of contacts in your area.³

³ Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access this number through TTY by calling the Federal Relay Service at 1-800-877-8399.

What You Can Do Now to Protect Your Family

If you suspect that your house has lead-based paint hazards, you can take some immediate steps to reduce your family's risk:

- If you rent, notify your landlord of peeling or chipping paint.
- Keep painted surfaces clean and free of dust. Clean floors, window frames, window sills, and other surfaces weekly. Use a mop or sponge with warm water and a general all-purpose cleaner. (Remember: never mix ammonia and bleach products together because they can form a dangerous gas.)
- Carefully clean up paint chips immediately without creating dust.
- Thoroughly rinse sponges and mop heads often during cleaning of dirty or dusty areas, and again afterward.
- Wash your hands and your children's hands often, especially before they eat and before nap time and bed time.
- Keep play areas clean. Wash bottles, pacifiers, toys, and stuffed animals regularly.
- Keep children from chewing window sills or other painted surfaces, or eating soil.
- When renovating, repairing, or painting, hire only EPA- or state-approved Lead-Safe Certified renovation firms (see page 12).
- Clean or remove shoes before entering your home to avoid tracking in lead from soil.
- Make sure children avoid fatty (or high fat) foods and eat nutritious meals high in iron and calcium. Children with good diets absorb less lead.

Reducing Lead Hazards

Disturbing lead-based paint or removing lead improperly can increase the hazard to your family by spreading even more lead dust around the house.



- In addition to day-to-day cleaning and good nutrition, you can **temporarily** reduce lead-based paint hazards by taking actions, such as repairing damaged painted surfaces and planting grass to cover lead-contaminated soil. These actions are not permanent solutions and will need ongoing attention.
- You can minimize exposure to lead when renovating, repairing, or painting by hiring an EPA- or state-certified renovator who is trained in the use of lead-safe work practices. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, learn how to use lead-safe work practices in your home.
- To remove lead hazards permanently, you should hire a certified lead abatement contractor. Abatement (or permanent hazard elimination) methods include removing, sealing, or enclosing lead-based paint with special materials. Just painting over the hazard with regular paint is not permanent control.

Always use a certified contractor who is trained to address lead hazards safely.

- Hire a Lead-Safe Certified firm (see page 12) to perform renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects that disturb painted surfaces.
- To correct lead hazards permanently, hire a certified lead abatement professional. This will ensure your contractor knows how to work safely and has the proper equipment to clean up thoroughly.

Certified contractors will employ qualified workers and follow strict safety rules as set by their state or by the federal government.

Reducing Lead Hazards, continued

If your home has had lead abatement work done or if the housing is receiving federal assistance, once the work is completed, dust cleanup activities must be conducted until clearance testing indicates that lead dust levels are below the following levels:

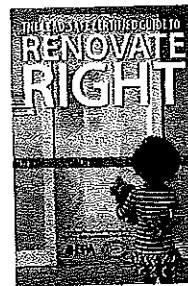
- 40 micrograms per square foot ($\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$) for floors, including carpeted floors
- 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for interior windows sills
- 400 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for window troughs

For help in locating certified lead abatement professionals in your area, call your state or local agency (see pages 14 and 15), or visit epa.gov/lead, or call 1-800-424-LEAD.

Renovating, Remodeling, or Repairing (RRP) a Home with Lead-Based Paint

If you hire a contractor to conduct renovation, repair, or painting (RRP) projects in your pre-1978 home or childcare facility (such as pre-school and kindergarten), your contractor must:

- Be a Lead-Safe Certified firm approved by EPA or an EPA-authorized state program
- Use qualified trained individuals (Lead-Safe Certified renovators) who follow specific lead-safe work practices to prevent lead contamination
- Provide a copy of EPA's lead hazard information document, *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*



RRP contractors working in pre-1978 homes and childcare facilities must follow lead-safe work practices that:

- **Contain the work area.** The area must be contained so that dust and debris do not escape from the work area. Warning signs must be put up, and plastic or other impermeable material and tape must be used.
- **Avoid renovation methods that generate large amounts of lead-contaminated dust.** Some methods generate so much lead-contaminated dust that their use is prohibited. They are:
 - Open-flame burning or torching
 - Sanding, grinding, planing, needle gunning, or blasting with power tools and equipment not equipped with a shroud and HEPA vacuum attachment and
 - Using a heat gun at temperatures greater than 1100°F
- **Clean up thoroughly.** The work area should be cleaned up daily. When all the work is done, the area must be cleaned up using special cleaning methods.
- **Dispose of waste properly.** Collect and seal waste in a heavy duty bag or sheeting. When transported, ensure that waste is contained to prevent release of dust and debris.

To learn more about EPA's requirements for RRP projects visit epa.gov/getleadsafe, or read *The Lead-Safe Certified Guide to Renovate Right*.

Other Sources of Lead

While paint, dust, and soil are the most common sources of lead, other lead sources also exist:

- **Drinking water.** Your home might have plumbing with lead or lead solder. You cannot see, smell, or taste lead, and boiling your water will not get rid of lead. If you think your plumbing might contain lead:

- Use only cold water for drinking and cooking.
- Run water for 15 to 30 seconds before drinking it, especially if you have not used your water for a few hours.

Call your local health department or water supplier to find out about testing your water, or visit epa.gov/lead for EPA's lead in drinking water information.

- **Lead smelters** or other industries that release lead into the air.
- **Your job.** If you work with lead, you could bring it home on your body or clothes. Shower and change clothes before coming home. Launder your work clothes separately from the rest of your family's clothes.
- **Hobbies** that use lead, such as making pottery or stained glass, or refinishing furniture. Call your local health department for information about hobbies that may use lead.
- Old **toys** and **furniture** may have been painted with lead-containing paint. Older toys and other children's products may have parts that contain lead.⁴
- Food and liquids cooked or stored in **lead crystal** or **lead-glazed pottery or porcelain** may contain lead.
- Folk remedies, such as "**greta**" and "**azarcon**," used to treat an upset stomach.

⁴ In 1978, the federal government banned toys, other children's products, and furniture with lead-containing paint (16 CFR 1303). In 2008, the federal government banned lead in most children's products. The federal government currently bans lead in excess of 100 ppm by weight in most children's products (76 FR 44463).

For More Information

The National Lead Information Center

Learn how to protect children from lead poisoning and get other information about lead hazards on the Web at epa.gov/lead and hud.gov/lead, or call **1-800-424-LEAD (5323)**.

EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline

For information about lead in drinking water, call **1-800-426-4791**, or visit epa.gov/lead for information about lead in drinking water.

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Hotline

For information on lead in toys and other consumer products, or to report an unsafe consumer product or a product-related injury, call **1-800-638-2772**, or visit CPSC's website at cpsc.gov or saferproducts.gov.

State and Local Health and Environmental Agencies

Some states, tribes, and cities have their own rules related to lead-based paint. Check with your local agency to see which laws apply to you. Most agencies can also provide information on finding a lead abatement firm in your area, and on possible sources of financial aid for reducing lead hazards. Receive up-to-date address and phone information for your state or local contacts on the Web at epa.gov/lead, or contact the National Lead Information Center at **1-800-424-LEAD**.

Hearing- or speech-challenged individuals may access any of the phone numbers in this brochure through TTY by calling the toll-free Federal Relay Service at **1-800-877-8339**.

U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Offices

The mission of EPA is to protect human health and the environment. Your Regional EPA Office can provide further information regarding regulations and lead protection programs.

Region 1 (Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 1
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100, OES 05-4
Boston, MA 02109-3912
(888) 372-7341

Region 2 (New Jersey, New York, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 2
2890 Woodbridge Avenue
Building 205, Mail Stop 225
Edison, NJ 08837-3679
(732) 321-6671

Region 3 (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, DC, West Virginia)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 3
1650 Arch Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 814-2088

Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 4
AFC Tower, 12th Floor, Air, Pesticides & Toxics
61 Forsyth Street, SW
Atlanta, GA 30303
(404) 562-8998

Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Wisconsin)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 5 (DT-8J)
77 West Jackson Boulevard
Chicago, IL 60604-3666
(312) 886-7836

Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and 66 Tribes)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, 12th Floor
Dallas, TX 75202-2733
(214) 665-2704

Region 7 (Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 7
11201 Renner Blvd.
WWPD/TOPE
Lenexa, KS 66219
(800) 223-0425

Region 8 (Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 8
1595 Wynkoop St.
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 312-6966

Region 9 (Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 9 (CMD-4-2)
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 947-4280

Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington)

Regional Lead Contact
U.S. EPA Region 10
Solid Waste & Toxics Unit (WCM-128)
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, WA 98101
(206) 553-1200

Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

The CPSC protects the public against unreasonable risk of injury from consumer products through education, safety standards activities, and enforcement. Contact CPSC for further information regarding consumer product safety and regulations.

CPSC

4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814-4421
1-800-638-2772
cpsc.gov or saferproducts.gov

U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

HUD's mission is to create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all. Contact HUD's Office of Healthy Homes and Lead Hazard Control for further information regarding the Lead Safe Housing Rule, which protects families in pre-1978 assisted housing, and for the lead hazard control and research grant programs.

HUD

451 Seventh Street, SW, Room 8236
Washington, DC 20410-3000
(202) 402-7698
hud.gov/offices/lead/

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U. S. EPA Washington DC 20460
U. S. CPSC Bethesda MD 20814
U. S. HUD Washington DC 20410

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IMPORTANT!

Lead From Paint, Dust, and Soil in and Around Your Home Can Be Dangerous if Not Managed Properly

- Children under 6 years old are most at risk for lead poisoning in your home.
- Lead exposure can harm young children and babies even before they are born.
- Homes, schools, and child care facilities built before 1978 are likely to contain lead-based paint.
- Even children who seem healthy may have dangerous levels of lead in their bodies.
- Disturbing surfaces with lead-based paint or removing lead-based paint improperly can increase the danger to your family.
- People can get lead into their bodies by breathing or swallowing lead dust, or by eating soil or paint chips containing lead.
- People have many options for reducing lead hazards. Generally, lead-based paint that is in good condition is not a hazard (see page 10).